



COOKHAM TWINNING NEWSLETTER

Winter 2015/16

A super 2015 visit to St Benoit

This year it was the turn of Cookham to visit St. Benoit, and a group travelled there by car, boat and plane at the end of October to enjoy a weekend of French hospitality.

We were welcomed at a reception in the Town Hall, hosted by the Deputy Mayor, Mr Bernard Peterlongo. He spoke about the Battle of Agincourt, almost exactly 600 years ago on October 25th 1415, which although the English won, eventually led to a more united France.

One of the visits the next day, was to the Futuroscope Theme Park, while others went off to visit historical sites near St Benoit, including St Savin Abbey with over 400 m² of frescoes from the Middle Ages depicting biblical scenes, a building listed by UNESCO.

In the evening, a welcome party was organised by our hosts, with a jazz band from St Benoit who invited Richard Kellaway from our group to join them for some of their numbers.

The following day we had great weather for our group visit to La Rochelle. An English speaking guide had been organised, and we learnt about the city's history. As the weather was so good, the afternoon was spent on the Ile de Re, now connected to La Rochelle by a bridge. It has beautiful little ports and large sandy beaches, both of which were enjoyed.

On Tuesday it was time to depart and we set off for home with memories of another excellent Twinning experience. We look forward to welcoming a group from St Benoit in 2016.



A sunny day in La Rochelle



It spells Cookham.....

New venture - French Themed Evenings

We are holding a French Themed Wine and Cheese evening on Wednesday 24th February, 8pm onwards, at Elizabeth House. We may make these 'French' evenings a regular event if there is sufficient interest.

Take the opportunity at this first meeting to sample some interesting French wines and check out some cheeses. Please ask anyone with an interest in French culture to come along. Ideas wanted for future 'French' evenings.

Entrance £10 (on the door), covers the wine and cheese sampling.

2016 Twinning Weekend

We will be welcoming visitors from St Benoit from 22nd to 25th October 2016. We're already planning an interesting weekend, with visits to exciting places in London, as well as showing our visitors what Cookham has to offer.

We'll also be looking for hosts, so if you think you can offer hospitality then get in touch through one of the contacts at the foot of this newsletter.



St Benoit—Ville Fleurie



The best ever calamari and chips!

Membership

Do join Cookham Twinning to make sure you keep fully in touch with all that's happening! It's only £5 per year for a family, or £20 for five years.

Single membership is £3 per year or £12 for five years.

Contact Stephanie Diggon, (stephaniediggon@hotmail.com) for a membership form.

French Classes

Pat Cairney holds intermediate French classes for those wishing to improve their language skills. Classes are usually held monthly on a Tuesday evening, cost £3 per session, including light refreshments.

Contact Stephanie as above to go on the mailing list for future dates.

Twinning contacts: twinning@cookham.com or phone 01628 532279